15th July 1953]

MR. SPEAKER :—" The question hour is now over. The rest of the questions and answers will be printed in the proceedings for the day."

Tobacco Marketing Committee for Coimbatore district.

* 490 Q.—SRI B. K. NALLASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a separate committee nominated in Coimbatore district for marketing tobacco;

(b) if not, why the Government have not nominated one; and

(c) whether the Marketing Committee is levying licence fees for small and big merchants alike?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) It is not usual to appoint a separate Market Committee for each commercial crop. The Coimbatore Market Committee, which was already dealing with cotton and groundnut, is now dealing with tobacco also.

" (c) The maximum fees that can be levied on tobacco by a Market Committee have been fixed by the Government in the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Rules. Subject to the ceilings fixed, it is open to any Market Committee to fix the licence fees, as it likes. The Coimbatore Market Committee has fixed the licence fees far lower than the ceilings. Petty merchants dealing in quantities of 10 seers leaf without stalk or 15 seers leaf with stalk a day are exempted from taking out licences. Thus, it will not be correct to say that the Coimbatore Market Committee is levying licence fees for small and big merchants alike."

Sanction for an electric lift in the King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam.

* 491 Q.—SRI M. VEERABHADRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have cancelled the sanction for an electric lift in the King George Hospital, Visakhapatnam ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) & (b) The answer is in the negative."

Thermal stations in Coimbatore.

* 492 Q.—SRI C. KANDASAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in Coimbatore the industrialists as well as the labour organizations have represented to the Government to construct Thermal stations to meet the shortage of Electricity; and